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... Ballots

(Continued from Page 1) out — presently we have men qualified to handle any situation, now all of a sudden, we have a demand. Why are we now so urgently trying to change something that's been in effect for so long a time?"

The oration drew a quick and thunderous reply from Victor Benstead. "Can't you answer that?" snapped Benstead.

Both Drate and J. A. Beasley indicated they would vote for a change to open the examinations to men in the first three ranks of the local departments.

More Americans have died in highway accidents in the United States during the past 80 years than have been killed in all American wars.

partments. Presently, only one man, assistant chief Bob Lucas, is eligible to take the examination for fire chief. Two men in the police department are eligible under present rules.

SCIARROTTA, in leaving the way open for council passage of the new ordinance, said, "I am not afraid to go to the people. I want the best, too. I may change my vote on the original ordinance, but I'm going to do it because I think we seven men should do this. An amendment to the Charter means only the people can change it."

All councilmen who support the change say they would like to see the local man get the appointment. They argue there is no need to fear competition from the outside.

Beasley and Drate voted against the resolution, and after the vote, Drate said, "I want the record to show I'm in favor of the local man." Councilmen have until the Feb. 18 meeting to act on their own, since the ballot measure may be removed until Feb. 20.

Core Tests Ordered for City Street

City Councilmen have ordered core tests of new pavement on 190th Street to determine if materials meet specifications for the street.

The action was prompted by a question raised by Councilman George Vico, who asked City Engineer Walter Nollac if the materials on all streets in the city would meet specifications.

Nollac told the council, "I have to assume they would, since city inspectors were on the job part of the time."

Several councilmen then jumped at the phrase "part of the time," and suggested such jobs should have a full-time inspector on the site. Nicholas Drate and Ken Miller suggested a full-time city inspector should be on duty at all major jobs, but both cautioned, "This applies to all cases." Said Miller, "to generalize, we need constant inspection by the city."

... Override

(Continued from Page 1) ported school enrollment nearing the 3,000-mark, up a thousand from the first year enrollment. A few double sessions were noted by the article, but it wasn't too serious.

By 1953, HERALD articles were reporting school enrollments in excess of 10,000 students for the first time. Double sessions were becoming common at nearly all the city's schools; and the Board of Education was struggling to find a way to eliminate double sessions without wholesale jumps in the tax rate.

THEN, THE dam broke. The hills in the west and south were terraced, flower beds were leveled, and the city spewed forth houses. Between 1954 and 1958, the district was bonded to its capacity; new schools were built as fast as possible. Enrollment hit 15,000 in 1955, but 4,000 students were on double sessions. By 1957, the district had opened a total of 22 elementary schools and two high schools, with seven opening for the first time, but still 4,500 students remained on double sessions.

Tax rates were adequate for a while, but in 1956 something had to give. The district sought its first override, a measure calling for 75 cents for an unlimited term. The voters approved it 4-1, and it was collected for the first time in 1957-58.

That first override provided funds for a while. It brought the general purpose tax rate to \$2.40 per \$100 assessed valuation. But in 1961, the district hit rock bottom again, and the voters again approved an override tax—50 cents for a period of three years. It is due to expire at the end of the current fiscal year. Then, the tax rate will drop back to the 1957-58 level of \$2.40.

TODAY, there is little newness in the old picture. Growth is still a major problem, and changed assessment practices may complicate it even more. Torrance, which normally gains \$17,000,000 in valuation each year, will show little or no gain next year when all property is assessed at 25 per cent of market value.

Population, now over 120,000, will grow even more. And the average age will keep dropping if trends remain unchanged. District officials say more than 1,200 new students must be absorbed in the schools next year. That would mean more than 32,000 students in the public schools next year. By 1970, the total enrollment will approach 40,000. Voters have approved bonds for construction of the

Meetings Set For Override Information

Several meetings will be held throughout the city tonight for information on the forthcoming tax override election called by the Torrance Unified School District.

A member of the Board of Education or one of the district administrators will be at each meeting to discuss the measure and answer questions.

Meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Waleria, Anza, Hamilton and Flavian elementary schools. Meetings at Newton and Parkway schools will begin at 8 p.m.

... Zoning

(Continued from Page 1) owners involved bought the land because it was R-3, and all other persons in the tract "were aware of the zoning." He also told the council, "we are asking for a precise plan that will not prohibit development."

THE PLANNING Commission, in recommending denial, told the council if it should rezone the area, it should require an alley and prohibit access to 230th Street from the rear units on the land.

The alley seemed to be the main point of controversy, since it would have to be built over an easement now held by Standard Oil. Several lots on Crenshaw, over which the alley would have to pass, are not zoned for multiple units.

Many residents of the tract opposed the rezoning, contending multiple units would destroy the area and decrease property values. They also cite the school, located at the end of 230th Street, and say multiple units would increase the traffic problem. Opponents did, however, say they were aware of the original rezoning.

Councilman Nicholas Drate, in moving to deny the rezoning, said, "We may have encouraged some of these people. We were tentative to them, but they've gone overboard."

needed facilities, but operating expenses—money to staff the new facilities—depends on the override election.

IF THE MAJOR problem is growth—from 2,000 students in four school in 1947 to 31,000 students in 37 schools in 1963—there are other factors. Inflation, a constant enemy of the American economy, has taken its toll. Rezoning, a controversial issue in Torrance now, has provided the impetus for increased residential development. And the apartment house has become a major factor in Torrance.

Since 1947, school enrollments have increased by nearly 1,600 per cent. Total valuation of the city—the tax base—has jumped less than 800 per cent. Pure logic provides but one conclusion: higher taxes or fewer, and poorer, services. That conclusion is the root of the problem, the reason why the district is seeking an override.

Those are the facts and figures. What about the more intangible factors? Has the district kept faith with the voters? Is the product of the Torrance Schools worth the money? These questions will be explored in the third part of this series.

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